

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1 1. A method of executing a software application, comprising the steps of:
2 (a) calling the software application residing on a server from a client, the client
3 and the server connected to each other through a network;
4 (b) launching a container/desktop of the client;
5 (c) the container/desktop initializing and executing a script of the application;
6 (d) the script starting a user-interface component of the application on the
7 container/desktop;
8 (e) the script executing and closing the user-interface component;
9 (f) the script linking to and starting another user-interface component of the
10 application; and
11 (g) the script executing and closing the another user-interface component.

12 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of said script starting and
13 executing the user-interface components within a policy framework of the
14 container/desktop.

15 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the container/desktop removing the user-
16 interface components from memory within the client when the user-interface
17 component is closed.

1 6. A client device, comprising:

2 (a) a container/desktop;

3 (b) an I/O port with which to communicate to one or more servers having

4 software applications, scripts, and user-interface components; and

5 (c) an interactive medium with which to interact with a user,

6 wherein when the user uses the interactive medium to request an application from the

7 server, the container/desktop communicates with the server through the I/O port

8 and invokes a script of the application in the server which downloads user-interface

9 components to the container/desktop according to the script and only on an as-needed

10 basis, and wherein the container/desktop discards the user-interface components no

11 longer needed by the application.

1 7. The client device of claim 6 wherein the container/desktop comprises code for

2 implementation of the user-interface component on a personal computer.

1 8. The client device of claim 6 wherein the container/desktop comprises code for

2 implementation of the user-interface component on a voice-response unit.

1 9. The client device of claim 6 wherein the container/desktop comprises code for

2 implementation of the user-interface component on a network computer.

1 10. The client device of claim 6 wherein the container/desktop comprises code for

2 implementation of the user-interface component on a pervasive mobile device.

1 11. The client device of claim 6 wherein the container/desktop comprises code for

2 implementation of the user-interface component on a second server behaving as

3 a client.

1 12. A method to script user-interface components to create an application which is
2 stored on a server and whose user-interface components are downloaded to a
3 container/desktop of a client, said method comprising:
4 (a) decomposing the presentation logic of the application into a plurality of tasks
5 to be performed interactively with a user on the client;
6 (b) for each of the tasks, creating a state diagram having a plurality of nodes
7 wherein a user-interface component is associated with at least two of the
8 plurality of nodes;
9 (c) writing a script connecting each of the user-interface components in
10 accordance with the state diagram and a policy framework of the
11 container/desktop;
12 wherein said script and said user-interface components are stored on at least one server
13 to which said client is connected and said user-interface components are downloaded to
14 said container/desktop on an as-needed basis.

1 13. A program product that causes an application to be executed on a server by a user
2 of a client device in which the user interacts through a container/desktop of the
3 client device with the application, the program product comprising a script of a
4 plurality of user-interface components, such that the container/desktop initializes the
5 script and controls the downloading and termination of the user-interface
6 components on an as-needed basis according to the script.

1 14. The program product of claim 13, wherein the user-interface components are stored
2 on one or more servers.

1 15. The program product of claim 13 wherein some or all of the user-interface
2 components are stored on the program product.

1 16. A computing apparatus, comprising:

2 (a) means for storing a software application to be performed by a user on a
3 container/desktop;

4 (b) means for invoking a script of a plurality of user-interface components to
5 execute said software application according to a policy framework of said
6 container/desktop;

7 (c) means for executing said script to perform said software application;

8 (d) means for downloading each of said plurality of user-interface components
9 to said container/desktop on an as-needed basis according to said script;
10 and

11 (e) means to display each of said user-interface components and to discard any
12 previous of said user-interface components from said container/desktop
13 when no longer needed by said user to perform said software application in
14 accordance with said policy framework of said container/desktop.